

Mont. 16-12-15

John Peters House Site
Martinsburg, Maryland
Private

c. 1870's

At this site once stood a one and a half story log house that had two rooms downs and two up. Each carried double hung sash windows. It was heated by a wood stove. This house was owned by a Negro blacksmith in the community, and it marks the transition in house types from the simple log houses of landless farmers to the more refined two story frame ones of Black landowners of the end of the 19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi #

Mont.: 13-12-15

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Peter's Log House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Martinsburg-Dickerson Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

C.H. and E.L. Schools

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

18900 Martinsburg Rd.

CITY, TOWN

(Martinsburg) Dickerson

VICINITY OF

STATE zip code
MD 20753**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery Co. Courthouse

Liber #: EBP 12

Folio #: 460

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:16-12-15

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Nothing remains above ground of the log house that once stood here. It was torn down several years ago by the current owners of the property since it was in dangerous condition and was replaced by a storage shed.

According to Lemuel Graham, the grandson of John Peters, this house was a one and a half story log house that had two rooms down and two rooms up. The roof line ran west-east, and the facade was oriented towards the south (White's Ferry Road). The doors (front and back) were located in the center, and there were two windows down and two windows up in the front and back length, illuminating each room.

There was no fireplace; the interior was warmed by a stove flue which ascended through the center of the house near the back length, according to Graham. The roof was covered with wood shingles.

Behind the house, Graham recalled, were a meat house and maybe a chicken house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is the type occupied by the early Black landowners and marks the transition from the small log house of one room down and one up to the larger two story frame houses of the late 19th century, as exemplified by the homes of many Black landowners in Martinsburg. This house retains the earlier and less expensive methods of construction but is larger and more commodious in size than the earlier dwellings and reflects the trend toward the specialization in room use.

The site of this house in Martinsburg is shown in G.M. Hopkins' Atlas of Montgomery County of 1879. The location is approximately correct, provided that Martinsburg-Dickerson Road is drawn too far to the west, which seems probable. The deed (L/F: EBP 12/460) shows that John Peters purchased this site (3 acres) in 1874. This makes Peters one of the earliest established Black landowners in the region. Further research -- for example of the census and probate records -- ought to be conducted to reveal more about this man who was a free Negro before Emancipation according to his grandson, and the only known Negro blacksmith in 19th century Maryland for whom we have a combination of resources: a house site; a blacksmith shop site; a deed; listings in published historical accounts (Hopkins' Atlas and T. Boyd's History of Montgomery County, oral histories from family members, and a photograph in the possession of his grandson, Lemuel Graham, has been copied as part of this research.

An effort ought to be made as well by future researchers to locate some of his tools as well as objects that he made.

NOTE: The family tradition that John Peters was a blacksmith is verified by Boyd's History of Montgomery County. Peters is listed on page as a blacksmith in Martinsburg. It is not known precisely when this house was built. Lemuel Graham clearly remembers that it was built only "before my time" (in the 1890's). The house resembles in description that of Notley Johnson and Sadie Crump in Prince George's County, which were surveyed during my work with the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture. That house contained two rooms down and two up with large glazed windows and stove flue. It was built in the 1880's by the Negro who purchased it at that time. Most likely, Peters built this log house soon after his purchase of the land in 1874. One must still consider the possibility that it was already standing before his purchase. Further research (of tax records) is beyond the scope of this preliminary survey.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
 Deed: EBP 12/460.
 Hopkins' 1879, Atlas of Montgomery County.
 T. Boyd, History of Montgomery County.
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.00 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

6/78

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
 Box 87, Stronghold
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510

THE HISTORY
OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
MARYLAND,

FROM ITS

Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879:

THE EARLY LAND GRANTS.—BY WHOM PATENTED.—THEIR ORDER OF
SETTLEMENT AND PRESENT OWNERS.—LOCAL AND GENERAL
EVENTS.—LEADING INCIDENTS.—PRINCIPAL TOWNS,
VILLAGES, &c.—ITS SOIL, PRODUCTS, AND
INDUSTRIES. ALSO,

SKETCHES OF THE PROMINENT MEN OF THE COUNTY.

DIRECTORY

OF POST OFFICES, MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, PROFESSORS,
FARMERS, TOBACCO PLANTERS, MECHANICS, MILLS,
COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, AND CHURCHES.

WITH AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROMINENT BUSINESS HOUSES
OF WASHINGTON AND GEORGETOWN.

COMPILED AND ARRANGED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES,

BY

T. H. S. BOYD.

CLARKSBURG, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND.

1879.

number 68-31727
8063-7954-5

erica

THE HISTORY
OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
MARYLAND,
FROM ITS
EARLIEST SETTLEMENT IN 1650 TO 1879

By
T. H. S. BOYD

With a New Index

Baltimore
REGIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY
1972

Bell, Silence
Bowman, George W.
Brown, Edward
Clagett, James W.
Clagett, Mrs. M. A.
Crawford, C. A.
Darby, W. A.
Dorsey, Thomas W.
Fish, Benjamin R.
Gattrel, G.
Griffith, C. H.
Griffith, U.
Griffith, U. H.
Griffith, Wm. R.
Hawkins, Wm.
King, S.
Nelson, O.

Plummer, Richard
Plummer, Robert
Pope, C. A.
Pope, James M.
Pugh, David L.
Ray, Nicholas
Riggs, Reuben
Riggs, Samuel, of G.
Riggs, Samuel, of S.
Stewart, Albert
Thompson, T.
Ward, J.
Warfield, J. G.
Warfield, John T.
Waters, George T.
Watkins & Clagett.
Williams, James

MARTINSBURG,

Eight miles from Barnesville, on the road (two miles) from White's Ferry, on the Potomac River. Land fertile, with a good clay soil: generally cleared, and commands from twenty to fifty dollars per acre. Yielding fine crops of Wheat, Corn, Oats, and Hay. Churches and Public Schools convenient. Population, 75.

Postmaster.

Reed, James W.

Blacksmiths.

McKenzie, T.
Peters, John

Merchants.

Phillips Brothers.
Reed & Trundle.

Millers.

Devilbiss, J. A.
Weller, Frank

Shoemaker.

Thomas, C. W.

Farmers.

Boteler, A. J.

Cowley, R. T.
Hickman, James B.
Jones, William T.
Jones, John L. T.
Mercer, W. E.
Mosburg, George
Mosburg, P. K.
Oxley, Edgar F.
Oxley, Thomas
Pool, B. R.
Reed, John
Remsburg, D. F.
Remsburg, William
Skinner, James
Smoot, R. W.
Stallings, Richard
Stephenson, John
Veirs, William F.

MIDDLEBROOK.

Two miles West of the intersection of the Frederick Turnpike and Big Seneca, nine miles West of Rockville, and four miles East of Clarksburg. Land, medium: can be purchased at from ten to twenty dollars per acre. Yielding fine crops of Wheat, Corn, Oats, Hay, Potatoes, and Tobacco. Churches and Schools near. Population, 30.

Postmaster.

Clements, George L.

Blacksmith.

Smith, Peter

Carpenters.

Easton, William
Trail, Thomas

General Merchandise.

Clements, George L.

Millers.

Buxton, Leonard
Watkins, L. L.

On the Monocacy River. Land productive, and raising good crops of Wheat, Corn, Oats, and Hay. Schools convenient. Population, 100.

Postmaster.

Sellman, Frederick

General Merchandise.

Sellman, Frederick

Physician.

Hellen, —

Is one-half mile from Barnesville. Land, medium: can be purchased at from ten to twenty dollars per acre. Yielding fine crops of Wheat, Corn, Oats, and Hay. Schools convenient. Population, 100.

Postmaster.

Heley, Francis

Blacksmith.

Flach, Joseph

Carpenter.

Cramer, C.

General Merchandise.

Heley, Francis
Holmes, T.
Magruder, W. F.

M. 16-12-15

me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the said State in and for the County
aforesaid personally appeared William H. Laman and acknowledged the fore-
going Bill of Sale to be his act. And at the same time before me also appeared
John T. Carlin and made oath in due form of law, that the consideration in
said Bill of Sale is true and lawful as therein set forth.

John W. Taylor, J.P.

At the request of Ann L. Robertson the following Release of Mortgage was re-
corded the 9th day of Nov. A.D. 1874, to wit:

This Deed made this second day of
November eighteen hundred and seventy four by Leonidas Willson, of Montgo-
mery County State of Maryland Witnesseth: That in consideration of the sum of
Seventy Dollars the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged the said Leonidas
doth grant unto Ann L. Robertson of said County unto her, her heirs and as-
signs all that property which is described in a deed from Obediah S. Layton
and Sarah M. Layton his wife to her the said Ann L. Robertson, dated the se-
cond day of November, eighteen hundred and seventy four, so far as may be ne-
cessary to release the said property from the Mortgage, dated the twelfth day
of December eighteen hundred and fifty nine and recorded among the Land Re-
cords of said County Liber I. P. H. No. 7 folio 630, by which said Mortgage the
said Obediah S. Layton granted unto the said Leonidas Willson certain real es-
tate of which the property above mentioned formed a part.

Witness my hand and seal.

Teste

A. Sellman

Leonidas Willson Deed

State of Maryland Montgomery County, to wit:

I hereby Certify that on this second day of November, eighteen hundred and
seventy four before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, per-
sonally appeared Leonidas Willson and did acknowledge the foregoing Deed
or instrument of writing to be his act.

Charles H. Murphy, J.P.

At the request of John Petus the following Deed was recorded the 10th day
of Nov. A.D. 1874, to wit:

This Deed made this nineteenth day of October
in the year eighteen hundred and seventy four by us Thos. Oxley and wife
Emily Oxley Witnesseth: That in consideration of the sum of one hundred

1957 M. 16-12-15

containing 3 A. 30³/₁₀ poles, in fee simple.

Witness our hands and seals.

Test:

J. Geo. Donohoe.

Thomas Orley *Test*

Emily J. C. Orley *Test*

State of Maryland Montgomery County to wit:

I hereby Certify that on this 19th day of October, in the 1874, before me, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Montgomery County, personally appeared Thomas Orley and Emily J. C. Orley, his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act.

J. Geo. Donohoe, J. P. *Test*

mailed

re J. Sullivan

order

ad Aug.

1876.

At the request of Joseph J. Sullivan, the following Deed was recorded the 1st day of Nov., A. D. 1874, to wit:

This Deed made this twenty sixth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy four, by us Robert W. Sullivan and Marcello Sullivan his wife, of Montgomery County, in the State of Maryland, Witnesses; That in consideration of six hundred and ninety dollars, in the said Robert W. Sullivan and Marcello Sullivan his wife do grant and hereby convey and confirm unto Joseph J. Sullivan, of said County and State, all that piece or parcel of land part of a tract of land called "Snowden's Manor Enlarged" situate and lying in said County in the State of Maryland, and contained within the following metes bounds courses and distances: Beginning at a stone on the thirteenth line of a tract of land called "Addition to Chanley Forest," and running thence with said line North five degrees East eighty and seven tenths perches to the end thereof; still with said tract North seventy five degrees West forty perches; South eighty degrees West twenty eight and six tenths perches to a small rounded poplar tree standing at the end of the fourth line of a conveyance by the said Robert W. Sullivan and Marcello Sullivan his wife to Albion J. Thomas, for twenty acres of said tract, then reversely with said line South one degree West eighty six and two tenths perches to the end of the third line of said conveyance; then East six and seven tenths perches to the beginning: Containing thirty four and a half acres of land more or less, with the appurtenances thereunto